Survey of big lakes/rivers

2460. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any schemes to survey big lakes/rivers to oversee/evaluate their pollution content level and silting and to suggest/ provide ways and means and financial aid to make them pollution/silt free;

(b) if so, the genesis and object of such schemes;

(c) whether Government have surveyed the polluted lakes in Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any requests/proposal have been received from Rajasthan Government who are facing financial crunch to clean the polluted lakes;

(f) if so, the amount allocated, so far; and

(g) the other remedial steps taken and to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) since June, 2001 for conservation and management of polluted lakes in the country. An allocation of Rs.220 crore has been made for National Lake Conservation Plan during the Tenth Plan period. The programme covers interception, diversion and treatment of pollution load, desiltation, deweeding, bioremediation and catchment area treatment including lake front development. Till date, 22 projects for conservation of 37 lakes have been approved at an estimated cost of about Rs.486 crore. The Ministry had also carried out a study for identification of lakes for conservation under National Lake Conservation Plan. The list of lakes requiring conservation and drawn up through this study, on the basis of ecological and hydrological criteria, was sent to all State Governments for consideration and prioritisation in their State. The Action Plan for the programme presently includes monitoring and implementation of ongoing lakes besides consideration of new proposals on the basis of their prioritisation and availability of resources under the Plan.

The Ministry is also implementing National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) since 1993 in 160 towns along polluted stretches of 34 rivers in the country. The allocation for NRCP during the Tenth Plan period is Rs.1417 crore.

(c) to (f) The Government of Rajasthan has carried out a survey of lakes in Rajasthan and a background information of 8 lakes, namely, Annasagar, Pushkar, Fatehsagar, Jaitsagar, Pichola, Swaroopsagar, Jaisamand and Nakki prioritised by State Government was forwarded to this Ministry in December, 2004. Out of these, the Government of Rajasthan forwarded only a proposal for conservation of 3 lakes of Udaipur which was not as per NLCP guidelines. The State Government has been informed accordingly.

(g) Before the prioritisation of lakes by Government of Rajasthan, a project on conservation of Mansagar Lake in Jaipur was approved in Sept, 2002 at an estimated cost of Rs.24.72 crore and is presently under implementation.

Preparation of photo identity cards of Tigers

2461. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wild life Institute of India has decided to prepare photo identity cards of all the Tigers of the country through new scientific techniques to have a more accurate count of the tigers living in the wild;

(b) if so, whether the three techniques-computerized pugmark, camera traps and DNA tests have been tried elsewhere in the world; and

(c) if so, what is the extent of accuracy about these methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. The new methodology of estimating tigers, co-predators, prey animals and evaluation of their habitat status has been evolved through collaborative research work between Project Tiger (Ministry of Environment and Forests) and the Wildlife Institute of India.This involves sampling and estimation of tiger density in different strata using a combination of